

# Minnesota Business Women Federation News

April 2013

## President's Message—from Donna Brau

### Ponderings from the President for April 2013

I can call this message a “pondering” today because that is exactly how I have come to the topic at hand. I’ve been thinking...about lots of things... spring, vacations, the successes and challenges of the first six months in my new position as the Director of Loving Arms Childcare, about where I’ve been and where I’m going...those things and more and so here is my pondering for the day:

Thirty plus years ago, this was the spring of my freshman year of college – almost exactly the time I lost my father to a seven-year battle with cancer. It was one of the most difficult times of my life and a chapter that shaped my early school years, my college years, and truly, my life.

My father was the embodiment of a perfect balance of kindness and resolve. He was always there for me and then he was **ALWAYS THERE** for me. He supported me when I needed his help and when I succeeded. He was there to support and celebrate. And he was there when I needed to be “redirected” and he could be one of the toughest people. Without ever being cruel, he set out an achievable standard that both my brother and I honestly strove to meet and when we “screwed up”, there were the inevitable consequences. What I didn’t know then, what I know now only in retrospect, is that my father was my first model of quality leadership. His sense of fairness and kindness wrapped around a clear set of expectations and I know the consequences came with the intention of helping me mature with values, morals, faith and a strong work ethic.

On my toughest days, I often think of him and find him to still be my inspiration, even after all these years. In fact, one of his statements still guides me. The day I left to drive myself to my first day of college, my father was very ill, bedridden. After loading my car, I realized that I had no idea how to get to the school. I had no idea how to generally get from my home town to the twin cities. So, I went back inside to ask my father for directions (no GPS then). He opened his eyes when I entered the room and I asked him how to get to Minneapolis and the U. He took a deep breath and replied, “Go east, but not too far east, and then go north, but not too far north.” He then gently smiled, closed his eyes, and fell asleep.

What? That’s it? Are you kidding me? ..... That was it and despite my misgivings, I drove from Redwood Falls to the U of MN campus without a map and without incident. I made it, I found the school and the truth of the matter is that over the years, his advice has served me well over and over and in a variety of situations. Sometimes we only need to know in what direction we are headed and have the sense and faith that we will get where we need to go. So to all of you as you travel into and through your careers and your lives, I humbly and gratefully echo my father’s advice, “Go east, but not too far east, and Go north, but not too far north.”

April

MBW Meeting

Tuesday

April 16th at

5:30 p.m.

Roosevelt Room  
at Green Mill

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 2011—2012 Officers:

President: Donna Brau  
Programs: Deb Paterson/Jeni Ritz  
Treasurer: Elisabeth Reynolds  
Secretary: Chris Carlson  
Membership: Wendy Ulferts  
Finance: Lisa Ziehl  
Mentoring Program: Julie Asmus

Newsletter: Kathy Dillon  
Fall Banquet: Julie Asmus, Teri  
Beyer, Kathy Dillon

**WILLMAR AREA CHAPTER – MN BUSINESS WOMEN**

**MBW Monthly Meeting**  
**April 16th at 5:30 p.m. - Roosevelt Room at Green Mill**  
**Mary Huesing, COG board member and officer**  
**will be our speaker**



**Build a vibrant economy by promoting personal wellness, cultivating a strong local foods network and celebrating a healthy, diverse and sustainable community.**

## **MENTORING**

**In March the mentoring group went out to the Spicer Castle for Brunch. We started out the morning learning about table setting and proper dinner etiquette. The food was great and while we ate we also learned about the history of the Spicer Castle and the area. Then the girls were treated to mini makeovers by Mandy (Flood) Brower, who is a Mary Kay consultant. It was a true, full circle moment. Mandy used to be in one of our first mentoring groups almost 20 years ago. Linda Mickelson was her mentor. She couldn't have been nicer to the girls. She talked to the girls about appropriate makeup application and how to take care of their skin. But then she also talked to them about how much she loves her business of selling Mary Kay and the success she has had with it. She really enjoys helping women feel good about themselves. She talked to the girls about looking good on the outside and how that can reflect how they feel about themselves on the inside. It was great talking to her again and seeing the wonderful young woman she has turned in to. She was a great role model for our girls.**



## Calendar of Events

June -	Happy Sol
August-	Picnic at Linda Mickelson's
September-	Political
October-	Banquet
November-	Willmar's Junior Achievement Program
December-	Christmas Party
January-	Mentoring Graduation/with Demo Inc.
February-	Humane Society
March-	Equip- Africa-Doug Wilkowske
April-	Library
May-	Installation of new officers/invite scholarship winners

## Raffle Donations

**April - Donna Brau**

**May - Beth Wepplo**

**June - Heather Templer**

**September - Chris Carlson & Elisabeth Reynolds**

## Other notes to share: from Donna

**Via News Blaze: BOCA RATON, Fla., April 3, 2013 / PRNewswire/ -- A panel of experts in health care and business today highlighted the impact of rheumatoid arthritis and other chronic conditions on employers and women in the workplace. Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) attacks women at a rate three times more than men, and comes at a cost that goes way beyond physical pain. With women making up about 50 percent of the U.S. workforce, the impact of rheumatoid arthritis on workplace productivity exceeds 47 billion dollars a year. Experts at the panel discussion, held at Office Depot's corporate headquarters in Boca Raton during the Enterprising Women's Conference, pointed out that women and employers need to be more aware of the many treatment options available to sufferers of RA and other chronic diseases so that they can effectively manage their health and the loss of productivity associated with these conditions.**



## For the Mothers in our midst

The driving force behind Mother's Day was Anna Jarvis, who organized observances in Grafton, W.Va., and Philadelphia on May 10, 1908. As the annual celebration became popular around the country, Jarvis asked members of Congress to set aside a day to honor mothers. She succeeded in 1914, when Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. D.B.

Willmar Federation of  
Business Women

## Gun Violence as it relates to Domestic Abuse

News out of New York: 'Mayors against Illegal Guns' continues its push for common-sense gun law reforms with a new ad and research highlighting the disturbing link between violence against women and guns. The ad features Elvin Daniel, a gun owner and NRA member whose sister Zina Daniel was murdered in the Brookfield, Wisconsin, spa shooting in October 2012. Several days after she obtained a restraining order against her violent estranged husband, who was a prohibited purchaser, he bought a semiautomatic handgun from a private online seller without a background check, which he used the next day to murder her and two other people. If Zina and her husband lived in nearby Michigan, where a background check is required for every handgun sale, she and the other victims might still be alive today. In fact, 'Mayors against Illegal Guns' has found that in states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 38 percent fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners. The ad can be viewed here: [www.demandaction.org/elvin](http://www.demandaction.org/elvin). D.B.



Working Women—  
Working Together

**Next MBW Executive Meeting is 5:15pm  
at Jazz & Java on Tuesday, April 9**



Willmar Federation of  
Business Women

Working Women—  
Working Together

## Of Interest

The Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* initiative, which began in 2008, is a five-year investment to provide underserved female entrepreneurs around the world with a business and management education. It operates through a network of more than 80 academic and nonprofit institutions that help develop locally relevant coursework and improve the quality and capacity of business education worldwide. The women selected for the program enroll in customized certificate programs ranging from five weeks to six months. Topics covered include marketing, accounting, writing business plans and accessing capital. Students are offered mentoring and post-graduate support by partner institutions, local businesses and the people of Goldman Sachs.

Research conducted by Goldman Sachs over several years has shown that investing in education for women has a significant multiplier effect, leading to more productive workers, healthier and better-educated families, and ultimately to more prosperous communities. Funding for *10,000 Women* is provided by Goldman Sachs and The Goldman Sachs Foundation. Our people from offices around the world contribute their time as mentors, selection-committee participants and guest lecturers in the classrooms of global academic partners. For more information go to: <http://www.goldmansachs.com/citizenship/10000women> D.B.



**MBW Executive Board Meeting**  
March 2013

The Executive Board Meeting for March 2013 was cancelled due to the weather.



## **MBW MEETING**

March 19, 2013

Green Mill, Willmar

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Donna Brau, President.

The collect was recited by the group.

We had an excellent Brag Box night. There was much to share and the dollars grew!

### **Business:**

Donna is still working on the proposal for the State Convention in 2014. An update will be given at the Executive Board meeting. She is also putting in our application for the Employer of the Year and for our Mentoring Program to the State for an award.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Treasurer:**

Treasurer's Report was handed out by Elisabeth and since the Executive Board didn't meet before the meeting, the report will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

#### **Membership:**

There was one membership renewal.

#### **Mentoring:**

Julie talked about the March get together at the Spicer Castle. They had Brunch and discussed etiquette at the table. After the Brunch, the girls had a lesson on cosmetics and skin care. Mandy Flood Brower was the consultant from Mary Kay. Mandy had been in the mentoring program when she was a teenager so was happy to give back to the cause. Mandy had been Linda Mikelson's Mentee.

#### **Finance**

Lisa Ziehl had nothing new to report but any ideas we can come up with to raise money for our organization are welcome to be heard.

#### **Programs:**

Deb Paterson announced our April speaker will be a Representative for the COG, Community Owned Grocery Store.

Girlfriends Night Out - Julie announced that we can use Steve Rambow's house on Green Lake this year and the date has been set for June 7<sup>th</sup>. Stacy Petersen has offered to help with the Vendors and Julie is looking for someone to take charge of the Silent Auction Baskets.

#### **Program:**

Jen Johnson from Safe Avenues gave a power point presentation on the different programs at Safe Avenues. She also invited us to the Gala on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Conference Center.

Raffle Winners were Joyce Standfuss, Deb Paterson, and Jane Vikse.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Willmar Federation of  
Business Women

Working Women—  
Working Together